

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES



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our local surgery

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2024

Firstly I would like to wish everyone a belated **HAPPY NEW YEAR**. I hope that you have not suffered too badly in the very cold and stormy weather we have enjoyed in January.

In this month's edition we have both a letter from DCC about potholes and an interview with the bosses of the Redlands Primary Care practice. Many people in the village have expressed concern about the accessibility of care. It's perhaps appropriate to say thank you to the two Redlands partners for their frank and encouraging interview with Ann Quon Cordingley. and, quite clearly, the bosses were aware. They now seem confident that the changes they have introduced will be welcomed by the community. That can only be good news.

Neighbourhood Planning Group

At the end of November the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held a very productive meeting with officers of Mid Devon and Cllr Steve Keable, cabinet member responsible for planning and economic regeneration.

MDDC has is exploring the availability of facilities and services in the rural communities of Mid Devon. Councillor Steve Keable said:

"Over half the population of our district live in rural areas and so we want to work to make sure that our villages can continue to support vibrant, sustainable communities and provide for the needs of local people. By responding to this survey, you will be assisting us in ensuring that we have the best possible picture of the valued facilities which exist across the district."

The public consultation will run from Wednesday 3 January to Friday 1 March 2024 and can be accessed via <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/rural-services> or via the QR code.



The Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group are asking that as many people as possible complete this Rural Services Survey.

Finally

Don't forget; this is your magazine and we are always looking for contributions and ideas to reflect the local community. We do miss some events and would ask that if you think you would like to share your successes, and the not so successes, with the village please just email your notes with a picture or two if appropriate to editor@newtonwonder.net.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTDecember 2023

The meeting, held on Thursday 7th December, was attended by six Councillors, the Parish Clerk, Mid Devon District Councillor Martin Binks, and four members of the public.

Sadly, Cllr Graham Scopes has had to resign to focus on personal issues. After the position was advertised, two candidates came forward for the spare position, and Donna Harris was co-opted after due process.

Issues relating to Mid Devon District Council

- The issue of broken lights between Shuttern Close and the Parish Hall car park has not been successfully resolved. It was now agreed that the Parish Council will raise the problem with the ombudsman.
- The planning enforcement issue raised by with Mid Devon by the Management Committee of Kingfisher Close has also not been resolved due to staffing shortages. Cllr Graeme Barnell will contact the leader of Mid Devon to express concern about the delay.
- Cllr Binks drew the Parish Council's attention to the Crediton Masterplan. It concentrates on green tourism and regeneration of the town centre. There will be public consultations in the new year and parishioners will be advised how they can take part.
- No comment was deemed necessary on the planning application to remove a Leylandii hedge at Glebe house.
- The issue of an empty property in the parish will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Issues relating to Devon County Council

- The Parish Clerk will contact the County Councillor about the need to clear vegetation from the footpath beside the A377 on School Hill.
- Our local Road Wardens have filled the pothole at the entrance to Station Road as best they can but they draw attention to the fact that this problem is more serious than they can deal with. The repair is on the Devon County Council list of jobs but it needs to be chased up as a priority.
- The bank on the church side of the A377 is showing signs of slippage. The Parish Council is concerned about the safety of the bank and would like an inspection to be carried out by the Building Regulator. A report will be made online.

Budget for 2024/25

- A draft budget was presented to the Parish Council. By necessity, spending must be closely controlled.
- It was decided that the funding of local groups could be better organised through a different process for grant applications. This would not mean less money, rather more discussion with the council and ultimately more ability to use the money for the most appropriate purpose rather than sticking to historical priorities. Cllrs Graeme Barnell, Liz Ouldrige and Peter Stephenson will seek to meet with the relevant organisations to start the discussions.
- After careful consideration of all the income and expenditure., the decision was made not to increase the allotment rents. But the subscription to the CPRE would be cancelled.
- The final precept (money raised from Council Tax) would be £14,048. This would be a 4.6% increase on 2023/34 and would mean that the amount collected from, for example, a Band D property would increase from £35.30 to £36.03.

Other Parish Council Matters

- The policy for co-opting new councillors will be reviewed as it proved cumbersome on this occasion. A new policy for awarding grants has been drafted. This was reviewed and some alterations made in time for acceptance at the next meeting.
- NEW have asked to lay a hedge on one side of the allotments. Permission has been sought from the landowner.
- The dying Hawthorn tree on the village Green will be replaced with another native tree. It may be that the schoolchildren could help to plant it. Liz Ouldrige offered to pay for the tree in memory of her husband.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Parish Hall on **Thursday 1st February 2024** at 7:00pm. Members of the public are welcome. Alternatively, if members of the public wish issues to be raised in council meetings, they can contact councillors in the usual way. There is also a Parish Surgery at the Coffee Mornings held on the **second Saturday of the month** in the Parish Hall.

Liz Ouldrige

RECREATION CLUB NEWS

"Happy New Year to you all! It's business as usual at the rec for this time of year. We've had some football games cancelled due to the weather but the team have done a great job in maintaining the pitches and getting the games played where possible.

Indoor games have resumed after the Christmas break. We have the Pugs and Woodpeckers playing skittles on Monday and Tuesday nights, respectively (when they're at home). Ladies' Darts are played on Wednesday nights and Men's darts on Thursday nights.

The tennis club enjoyed a social evening in the clubhouse last month with a murder mystery/escape room game and food and drinks.

For any future bookings or enquiries about use of the facilities, please use newtonrecbookings@outlook.com to contact us and we will get back to you.

We are always looking for more help so if you use any of the facilities and feel able to contribute to the continuing upkeep and progression, we have made it very simple by introducing a QR code. There is one below and we will have some placed

around the recreation ground.

Simply scan the code and enter your donation amount along with payment details. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks on behalf of Newton Rec Committee."

Claire Digby



NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sunday 18th February

This month we intend to use the walk to enjoy the extensive all round views from the top of Raddon hill. We will follow a circular route starting from the car park by the site of the old sheep shed, along the top to Raddon clump then following the path anti-clockwise down to the lane and round back up Raddon hill.

We will meet in the car park at Newton St Cyres at 9.30 am to car share. Alternatively you can meet us at the top of Raddon where we are planning to start the walk at 10.00 am (At the top of Raddon Hill, grid ref SS 88764 03225, turn right down a track. Parking is in 200 metres)

For more information please ring Nigel or Rosemary Chambers on 01392 851400.

All are welcome

Please note that anyone joining us on these walks does so at their own risk



I've GOT
YOUR
BACK

PILATES

Pilates at Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

Thursdays at 11.00am

Hello, my name is Becky and I am a local Pilates Instructor
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My classes aim to respond to each clients' abilities and needs. They are also informal and fun! A 4 week trial will only cost £28.00. If this sounds of interest, why not give it a try? To secure your place please email me:
ivegotyourbackuk@gmail.com or phone 07392 480974.

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP



Newton St Cyres Through Photos

Many people may be unaware of the excellent collection of photos of the village held by Lynda Pearce. She also has a large collection of images of Exeter, and we saw some of them in the village hall at our exhibition in April 2022. But our Christmas meeting, on 13th December, focused on the village itself.

As Lynda explained at the beginning of her talk, she moved to Exeter from Worcestershire in 1959, but after two weeks at Bishop Blackall School, she was moved to Queen Elizabeth School, in Crediton, due to the strict catchment-area rules. Thus she passed through Newton on the bus twice a day on her way to and from school, before the road was widened and before the green was created with the new cottages.

Eventually she and her partner Alan moved to the village, and she started collecting old postcards and other material with images of Newton St Cyres. She generously showed us 189 of these photos, which built up a wonderful impression of the village during the last 120 years or so. Traditionally, postcards have been plentiful because people used them to communicate at a time when there were several post deliveries a day.

The earliest photos Lynda showed us were two from 1904, and the latest were taken during the covid pandemic. During that span of time the buildings and the landscape have undergone many changes, and it was fascinating to compare the present with the past. In the early 20th century the road through the village was muddy and dusty, depending on the time of year, and the horses and carts left tracks and horse dung. There were no pavements, instead a line of cobbles separated the house fronts from the road, with steps going up into the houses, especially at the western end of the village. Over time, layers of tarmac and new pavements have changed the levels.

During the 1920s the views of the village show it as unkempt, with patches on old thatch and the house fronts dirty. This may be a legacy from the First World War when there was not the money or the manpower to keep things in good repair. During the Second World War, the houses were intentionally muddled as camouflage, and there were two good photos showing the houses by the ford being daubed to stop the whitewash attracting German warplanes as they flew over Exeter and the surrounding villages.

Lynda had several pictures of fires, especially the one at Newton House. A photo of the 18th century building in 1904 contrasted with the fire of 1906, and then the rebuilt house in 1910, which is the one existing today, now made into homes. A series of photos of the church showed the original box pews, organ and choir loft

in 1905. By 1925 new pews and chairs had been installed, the loft removed and the organ re-situated. A view of the vicarage in 1928 shows it little changed from the outside and a Sunday School party in the vicarage garden in 1905 was photographed, showing lots of small children in their best clothes.

Social events in the village were well recorded. One charabanc outside the old Crown and Sceptre in 1918 full of people ready for an outing had multiplied to four charabancs by the 1924 outing. Lynda made the point that history is ongoing, and it is important to record recent events as they happen. She showed the popular carnivals during the 1950s, one of which in 1951 paid for street lighting in the village the next year. Photos from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, and the first 20 years of this century showed a variety of village events. There was the village fete and maypole dancing from the 50s, the darts team in the 60s, a church nativity, the bell ringing team in 1969, the football and cricket teams in 1964, the opening of the tennis courts in 1977, planting the Silver Jubilee tree on the Green in the same year, beating the parish bounds in 1979, the nursery established at the Home Farm in the 1980s, Morris Men at the Beer Engine in 1990, and the Twinning Group during the 1990s and into the 2000s.

The centre of the village saw a great change between 1959 and 1962. A view along the main road looking west from the east end of the village, taken in 1905, shows Abraham's Agricultural Inn on the left. A similar photo taken in 1959 shows it renamed Old Beams and run as a Guest House (it is now a private home), and the view little changed over the intervening 54 years. By 1961 it looked very different.



The centre of the village from the church tower in 1955

Newton St Cyres was a bottleneck on the A377, and after consultation during 1955, the inhabitants voted overwhelmingly to demolish the southern side of the street and rebuild the houses, widening the road and creating a village green.

Demolition started in 1959, and the photos show how the new cottages were built

at the rear of the old gardens, and then the thatch on the old cottages was removed and the buildings demolished, leaving space for the village green. The fire at the old Crown and Sceptre in July 1962 changed the landscape again, and the new pub was built back from the old road, leaving space for a car park.



The centre of the village from the church tower in 1992

A photo from the church tower in 1955 (see previous page) contrasts the same view taken in 1992, and shows these changes, as well as the removal of the old orchards and the new houses of Godolphin Close built behind the pub. The sharp-eyed will notice that Tytheing Close, first opened in 1951, shows clearly on the skyline in the 1992 photograph.

Down at Sweetham, Lynda has photos of the station with a steam train running through and with its original siding and buildings, now gone; also the old Methodist Chapel, now a house, and the houses built at Creedy View above the Beer Engine when they were new. She included a few images of Half Moon and a press cutting from January 1995 about the destruction by flooding of the salmon fish weir which had been adapted by poet Ted Hughes, a keen fisherman.

Lynda finished with a series of her own excellent photos of the village and its surrounds. Some showed the snowy winter of 2010 and the rest were taken during the Covid pandemic, when the weather was so good, and the wildlife became so much more evident. She finished with a symbolic rainbow and reminded us of how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place.

Oldtimers remembered many of the post-war scenes and people, and this led to observations and comments that made the occasion conversational and interactive in a very enjoyable way. We are grateful to Lynda for sharing the valuable resource that she has collected over the years.

Isobel Hepworth

HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS for SPRING 2024

Feb 14th Elly Babbedge 'Who Fled the Crediton Fire?' Stories from the Great Fire of Crediton 1743'

Elly has been interested in genealogy since her school days and is very good at seeking out the personal stories behind the historical events. She will be able to introduce us to some of the characters who were living in Crediton in the mid eighteenth century.

March 13th Martin Watts 'Devon's Tucking Mills '

Newton St Cyres has had many mills throughout the ages, mostly powered by the River Creedy, although not necessarily very close to that river as some leats were quite long. We have a description of a mill in the 1407/8 Plympton Priory Rental. Traces of these very early mills have long gone as they were wooden structures with their water channels lined with board.

April 10th Amyas Crump on railways, title undecided.

Perhaps about fifteen years ago Amyas acquired a large collection of very old railway photographs. He is a railway enthusiast and has written many books. He may have been a trainspotter once but he is a very good speaker with an in depth knowledge of the history of railways especially in the South West.

The History Group has no special membership. Everyone is welcome to any meeting. Meetings are usually the second Wednesday of the month at the village hall, 7.30pm, £2 with coffee, tea and biscuits.



Newton St Cyres Art Club

is looking for new members.

All welcome, including beginners. We meet on the last Friday morning of each month, except for August, in the Parish Hall, sometimes to paint together, sometimes to watch demonstrations by professional artists.

We also hold regular workshops with professional artists. We are a friendly group and support all newcomers. If you want to try something new, or revive a past interest, contact our membership secretary Sue Trembath 01363 866439.

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

February

With the tree packed away in its cardboard box,
A drawer full of pants and Christmas socks,
The cake disappearing, a slice each day,
Garden birds courting in their colourful way.

As spring marches forward slowly each day,
Chasing the dark days of winter away.
We watch as the catkins on the Hazel appear,
Could they tell us the weather for the coming year.

So February's the month of hope and delight,
As snowdrops appear so clean and white,
And Hellebores too, so stately and tall,
Surrounded by Crocus and other plants small.

Like Primroses, Iris and Cyclamen coum,
With dainty Viola's packed in where there's room,
And Pansies displaying their colourful face,
With everything growing, will we ever keep pace!

But don't be disheartened by the speed that things grow,
You can keep weeds at bay with the occasional hoe,
Then watch as the green shoots reach for the sky
on plants you'll admire when you slowly walk by.

Things to do in the garden

I don't know about you but I like a windy day every so often. It can clear your head and as the saying goes, blow away the cobwebs. Now I'm talking about wind, not the howling gales that we've endured over the last few months or the torrential rain that has brought so much misery to so many people.

We have been working on the last bit of the front garden since early in December, sometimes it was like working in a mud pit, now as I write these notes, the sun is shining but the ground is frozen, and the work is not yet finished. Fingers crossed we'll get it done before the spring. Talking of spring , it's just around the corner, so let's get things ready.

If the ground is frozen, make a nice cuppa and scan through the plant and seed catalogues, get an order in for plug plants or seeds before it's too late. If the ground is workable, start getting the veg patch ready. Remove any perennial weeds before they set seed and if you are like me, finish any rough turning once the ground becomes vacant.

I'm not a fan of this "No Dig" idea. To make this work, you need to cover your patch with between 2" and 4" of mulch, old or new compost, well-rotten farmyard manure or a purpose-made mulch. You could be better off buying your veg from the shop.

I used to grow the early broad bean "Aquadulce", but like most crops it depended on the weather. They could grow quickly in warm conditions, then frost will bend them over. They then return to upright during the day, damping off or Botrytis could affect the stems where they bend, killing off the plant. I now grow "Masterpiece Longpod", an early variety started off in cells in the cold frame, late February early March.

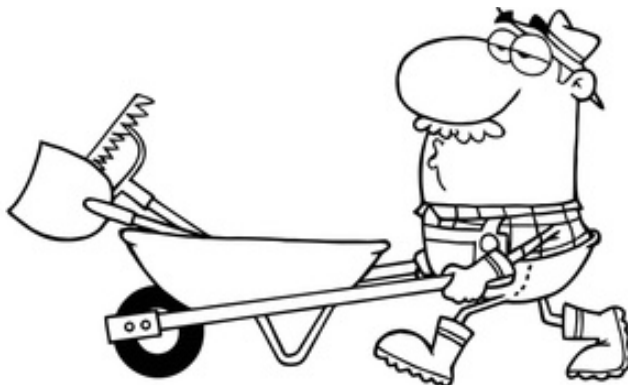
You can also start off the onion sets in the same way; plant them out when well rooted. I also do this with peas. I grow five seeds per cell – rounded seed for early varieties, wrinkled ones for main crop.

Plant of the month

"Cyclamen Coum"

A hardy cyclamen flowering late winter, early spring. These are small plants so you will need quite a few for an instant display. They do self-seed, true to form, so why not let them spread naturally over time. They like well drained soil in light shade.

Enjoy your gardening



Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

A happy, healthy and active New Year to you all!

The first social event of the year was on Friday 12th January in the Recreation Club, where we all enjoyed A Murder Mystery designed and run by two members of the Club. The theme was a murder at the Tennis Club, with quite a few suspects. Each team of two received a clipboard with sleuthing information. The answers were cunningly disguised in various locations. There was a lot of humour and some very clever clues. Afterwards, we enjoyed a bring-and-share supper. A fantastic evening.



The Rusty Racket Members' Group is thriving and playing three to four times a week. If your New Year's Resolution is to play tennis again, please contact me at [frederiekmaddock@gmail.com](mailto:frederiek Maddock@gmail.com)

You can join the club now for half price for a winter membership. Just contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259.

Winter League matches are in full swing. The East Devon leagues matches are nearly finished and we are doing very well in division 1 and division 6. The Exeter League has more matches to finish but the men are holding their own in division 3.

Junior coaching, run by our club coach Jon Wills, is well attended and takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time. If you would like to enrol for the winter term, please email juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information and put your name down and check if there is room in the right age and right level group.

Jon also offers adult coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills or learn more about the doubles' game, just get in touch with Jon Wills via our website.

The Tennis Club now has a super-duper ball machine, which means you can practise, all by yourself. A number of members are now trained in using the machine so if you would like to have a go, please contact the Club. www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

Frederiek Maddock



PC Jana and DI Sarah with the winners of the Tennis Club Murder Mystery, Neville and Lucy

The Post Box at Station Cross

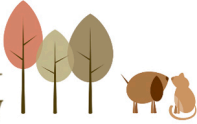
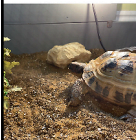
After contact with the CEO's office at Royal Mail a new post box arrived at Station Cross on 8th December 2023. However that is all that has happened. A further contact was made in the middle of January. The reply received made little sense and Jamie, the postman, suggested that the letter was referring to a box in Aylesbeare.

This photo was taken on 24th January just as the magazine was about to go to print. In February it will be a year since the box was stolen..

Peter Hawksley



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NEWTON ARBORETUM COFFEE MORNING

SAT 10 FEB at
NSC Parish Hall

Stalls, coffee, cakes and company!

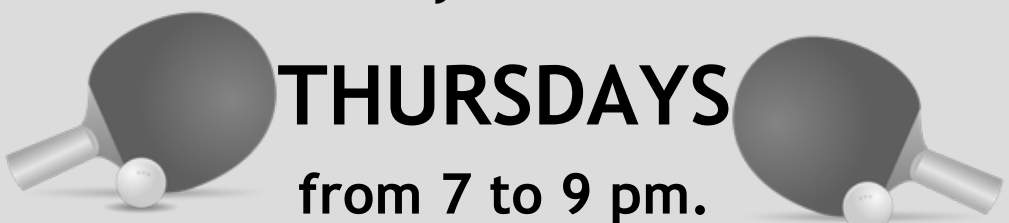
10.30 to 12.00

All welcome.

Proceeds for improving the Arboretum

Table Tennis at

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall on

Two table tennis paddles and a ball are positioned on either side of the word 'THURSDAYS'. The paddles are dark-colored with light-colored handles, and the ball is white.

THURSDAYS

from 7 to 9 pm.

As well as seeing present members of our Group, we are keen to welcome new players – with or without experience - adults and children from the age of 12.

There are four tables so we can fit in people from beginners and rusty former players to League players. Equipment is available.

Winter Carriageway Conditions

January 2024

Following the period of extended wet weather that we have experienced over the festive period the Highways and Traffic Management Service has experienced a significant increase in the number of potholes reported by the public and recorded through the Highway Safety Inspection process.

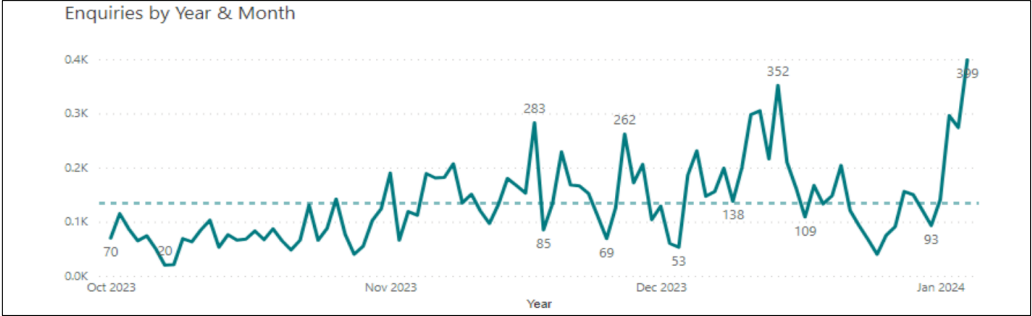


Figure 1 Table of Public Pothole Reports from Oct 2023

This increase in numbers highlights the fragile nature of our carriageways due to the long term lack of capital funding, leading to under investment.

This situation is undoubtedly going to get worse over the next couple of weeks as the current cold spell leads to further deteriorations due to freeze thaw effects.

If you receive direct contact by members of the public regarding potholes it would help if they are encouraged to use the ‘report a problem’ webpages.

www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/

Once a defect has been reported by the public the Service aims to visit and triage the report within 3 working days on our higher category road network, and 7 days in our lower category network. The Triage Officer will then arrange the appropriate response based on the Council’s Highway Safety Policy.

Should members of the public contact you regarding the late repair of defects or suggestions that defects have been closed down without action, please ask for the reference number (it starts with a D) that they will receive when they made the report. With this number it is much easier to follow up on these enquiries.

In addition to the increase in defect repairs the additional task of gritting the network is likely to stretch resources, particularly if this cold snap continues for any length of time. Currently the road surface temperatures are rising above zero in the daytime. When they remain freezing all day we enter a cycle of continuing to grit the roads throughout the day. This draws heavily on resources. The potential impact will be the need to focus on the safety critical operations over the

planned improvement works such as patching and drainage improvements. While this is frustrating for our communities, the safe operation of the network has to be prioritised.

The Network Response Team are in daily communication with our contractor, Milestone, to assess the current demand, adequacy of resources and priorities. This includes identifying non-safety or 'serviceability' defects that do not meet safety defect criteria, but that may represent sufficient deterioration to be considered a nuisance or are likely to continue to deteriorate further. Where defects are situated in close proximity to one another, inspectors can specify larger patch repairs to encompass those defects.

In addition to identification and repair of non-safety defects we are continually innovating and trialling new products and processes to improve the efficiencies associated with defect repairs. For example, the recent trial of a product called 'Elastomac' which we demonstrated at County Hall back in the summer (a mastic asphalt that utilises around 70%-80% recycled materials). This is in parallel to now established processes like the dragon patchers we operate in Devon. Whilst pothole numbers may be higher than we'd like in the weeks ahead, it's worth reflecting on where we might be if it wasn't for a combination of these combined efforts.

To give you an understanding of the current level of resources, at present there are up to 26 defect gangs across the County undertaking pothole repairs, supported by 2 additional sub-contractor gangs. With regards to serviceability repairs, we currently have around 8 internally resourced Milestone gangs carrying out larger scale repairs across the County. In addition to this they are being supported by two externally resourced gangs and further work is underway as we speak in potentially bringing in one or two further sub-contractor gangs. Lastly, all four dragon patching gangs are on programmed work this week and will continue whilst the weather remains favourable.

As I reported before Christmas, the additional £6.663m is already being invested into the carriageway with additional serviceability patching and local planned works brought forward in the programme. Again, I would encourage you to continue liaising with your local Neighbourhood Officer to agree future priorities.

Stay Safe

Stuart Hughes

Cabinet member for Highway
Management. DCC

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How much would you like to know about the past in Newton St Cyres?



Newton St Cyres History Group has a growing library of publications



- **Newton St Cyres – A Village Story (£5)**

Compiled by residents of this village in 1999 (the green 'millennium book') containing a wealth of reproduced photographs.

- **Newton St Cyres Historical Village Walks (£1)**

Four brief walks around the Village, the Western Bluff, West Town and Station Road with maps and an explanation of the road cuttings, levelling and straightening.

- **Newton St Cyres Mining and Miners (£1)**

Our mining heritage, both manganese, claimed to be *"the first commercially successful manganese mines in the world!"*, and lead & silver up on Tin Pit Hill that may go back to Roman times.

- **Newton St Cyres Church – Statement of Significance (£2)**

Describes the history and most important features of the church, dedicated to St Cyr and St Julitta.

- **Memories of Boyhood in a Devon Village (£3)**

Written by Alfred Abraham, born in Newton St Cyres in 1893. He shares his memories growing up in the village at the beginning of the 20th century.

- **Newton St Cyres in the 1940s & 1950s (£5)**

Written by Stella Cork, born in Newton St Cyres in 1934 and the daughter of the village postmaster. She gives a remarkable description of families in the village and an insight into village life.

- **Newton St Cyres and The Civil War 1642-46 (£5)**

Written by Jean Wilkins. The story of grief, hardship and a little excitement for those living in the village almost 400 years ago during the English Civil War supported by coloured photos and maps. Would you have been a Roundhead or a Cavalier?

- **Newton St Cyres in the WW2 Years (£5)**

Written by Roger Wilkins, The contributions of the village to the war effort are described, as are impacts on village activities and businesses.

Also visit **newtonwonder.net** where you will find data and analyses on:

Births, Deaths and Marriages in Newton St Cyres (16th–18th century)

UK Censuses on Newton St Cyres (1841-1911)

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Parish Hall News

The **New Year's Eve Ceilidh** was a most enjoyable occasion. 50 villagers and friends joined in the dancing, eating, drinking and fun. After a break of 4 years (due to Covid) it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves. A huge thank you, to all those who attended the event. Thanks also to the extended team of helpers, made up of Committee members, and their families and friends, for their assistance with setting up (& clearing away.)

The well-stocked bar was run by Roger & Julie F, the catering by Chris Burrows & Michael Baker and the Door & Raffle run by Rosemary & Nigel Chambers. Thanks also to Andrew & Sue Gee who so generously provided the Prosecco for the welcome drink.



A break for a chat at the Ceilidh

It was wonderful to have the Barnstormers back playing in the village, as Helen (the caller) said, she loved being back having grown up here, and to see so many familiar faces in those dancing so enthusiastically.

These events really do bring the community together & it was so good to see everyone enjoying themselves.

An update for 10th March – **the Show of Hands gig has now SOLD OUT.** If you have tickets that you no longer require, please let me know as soon as possible, as I have a waiting list.

We are still hoping to work on a family event with **Villages In Action** in the Spring, so look out for further information/posters

Nicola Baker

Community Speed Watch

The parish council are considering resurrecting the speed watch programme. We will need a minimum of 4 volunteers who would be prepared to commit on a regular basis to roadside monitoring of traffic speeds in the village. If you are interested contact Cllr John Dean (johndean@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk) or text/phone 07778 640025.

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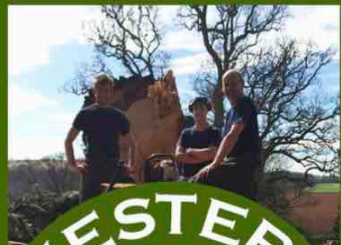


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NEWTON ARBORETUM

Most villagers will know of the Arboretum, but more recent arrivals may not have come across it.

The Arboretum is behind the church. It extends over nearly 9 acres and is a delightful spot with a network of paths and a wide range of both exotic and native trees. It was established in the 1760s by the Quicke family and is owned by John Quicke. In 2010 John very generously agreed to lease the Arboretum to the Parish Council for a peppercorn rent. The Friends of Newton Arboretum was set up to manage the site and public access was provided.



The Arboretum in January

Some 140 people, mainly from our village, pay an annual subscription of £10, and their contributions and volunteer help are crucial to the Arboretum's success. Please consider becoming a Friend. Membership forms are on the back of the Arboretum leaflets that are in the

dispenser just inside the gate and in the Parish Hall car park.

A coffee morning in aid of the Arboretum is to be held in the Parish Hall at 10.30 on Saturday 10th February. Please attend. More information on the Arboretum will be available.

For any further information and membership forms, please contact either me or our new Treasurer, Marcus Iles (marcus.iles@btinternet.com).

Hope you will enjoy visits to our Arboretum.

Roger Wilkins

Secretary

Friends of Newton Arboretum

01392 851337, rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com



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Road Wardens to the Rescue

The heavy rain during the first two weeks of December caused the Shobrooke Lake brook to breach and flood the roads at Lower Living and Camps Bridge. As the rains subsided, the water drained away from the Camps Bridge area and the roads became passable. The road wardens' maintenance of the roadside ditch here was clearly working.



Flooding between Lower Living and Camps Bridge

However, the road at Lower Living did not clear and continued to fill with water. At its peak it was a metre deep, making the road impassable to normal road traffic and a hazard to the public.

The problem was caused by a blocked drainage pipe alongside the road opposite Lower Living. The result was that water accumulating on the road could only drain away by going through the hedge line and into the field and subsequently down to the brook. The flooding was aggravated by the spring above the road near Wyke Farm, which runs all year round into this drainage system. The water draining into the road area was equal to the speed at which it could drain, so the flood continued to block the road.

Road wardens cleared out the buddle holes and that helped drain surface water away through the hedge. This work caused the depth to reduce to around 300mm-500mm at road level. The issue could only be resolved by clearing the blocked pipes. However, it was not possible to clear the pipes with rods as the pipe was too long, at 90 metres to 100 metres in total.

Rodding 20 metres from either end through the gulley did not clear the blockage. However, further investigation uncovered a mid-way inspection/rodding chamber that allowed clearing of the blockage much more easily. Once cleared, the water drained off within 30 minutes.

Congratulations to Nick Gillon and his outstanding team of road wardens for this excellent piece of work.

John Dean
NSC Parish Council

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The draw for December took place at the Coffee Morning on the 9 December and the draw for January took place on 13 January. The winners were:

December 2023

No. 192	C Fraser	£50.00
No. 43	M Ashdown	£50.00
No. 88	B Ashmore	£10.00
No. 84	W Maltby	£10.00
No. 96	P Watts	£10.00
No. 139	Mrs Tancock	£10.00
No. 152	P Taylor	£10.00

January 2024

No. 25	S Lane	£100.00
No. 234	D Ashmore	£10.00
No. 60	J Perkins	£10.00
No. 89	E Mellish	£10.00
No. 227	J Browne	£10.00

The Club is registered through the Mid Devon District Council Licensing Department as a Small Society Lottery under the Gambling Act 2005

Jane
01392 851148

Martin Ouldrige 1953-2023

My beloved husband, Martin, died on November 16th last year. He was an intelligent, funny and kind man, a loving husband, father and grandfather. As a scientist, he spent his career with the Met Office. When the Met Office moved to Exeter 20 years ago, we moved to Newton St Cyres. We came to love both the village and the surrounding countryside. For the last few years, during his illness, the village community has provided much friendship and support. It was a great help to us both and I thank you all very much.

The Hendersons Bid a Fond Farewell to Newton



Nick and Viv Henderson

When Nick and Viv Henderson moved to Newton St Cyres after retiring from life overseas, the village was to be their forever home. The place ticked all the boxes: A quiet village close to their daughter in Exeter, lovely country walks, a good community spirit and friendly locals.

Now, nearly five years later, they are upping stakes and leaving the village they have come to love and done so much to support.

“We don’t want to leave, but our daughter and son-in-law asked if we’d share a home with them,” says Nick. “We found a place with six acres in a village outside Tiverton. We plan to divide it in two.”

That’s a reason that’s hard to beat – and it’s a pity for Newton. In their short time here, the Hendersons have made more of an impact on village life than most residents who have lived here all their lives. In fact, there is probably no corner of village life they haven’t been involved in.

Friends of the Arboretum, History Group, Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group, Gardening Club, Mah Jong Club, Village Lunches, Art Group and the successful Music All the Way Festival – these are just some of the groups and activities they have supported one way or another. In fact, Viv’s involvement with the Art Group is evident from her paintings that are proudly on display at home.

On why she and Nick are so active in the community, Viv says: “I just enjoy being with people really. I am a social person and I like helping people.”

After 12 years overseas, including Hong Kong and then Dubai, where Nick was

training and development director for a financial services brokerage, retirement brought them to Newton. They started attending monthly coffee mornings at the Parish Hall, with Viv soon volunteering to run stalls during special events.

Their experience working in a village shop in east Devon led to then Parish Council Chair Jim Enright asking them to join a committee to look into the viability of a village shop. Nick set up a few meetings where two of its members were parish councillors. "At the last meeting they said leave it with them, and the last we heard was that the Parish Council was going to take it over. But then Covid happened," says Nick.

It was during the Covid lockdown that, like many in the village, Nick and Viv did a lot of walking, meeting locals along the way, including Peter Hawksley, whom Nick knew through the Revels where he had been co-opted as its treasurer. Peter Hawksley was looking for someone to take over the "Do You Remember?" column in the *Newton Wonder*. Nick and Viv readily took on the job, taking turns researching and writing, including trips down to the draughty Devon Records Office.

Of all the volunteer work, Nick is perhaps best known for his filling potholes around the village under the Road Warden Scheme run by Nick Gillon. "Nick is someone I greatly respect, and I thought I could work well with him," says Nick Henderson. "I have done over 100 hours with him."

A trained volunteer, Nick has not just filled potholes, but cleared hedges and ditches around the village. "What we really try to do is preventative work to stop problems forming. But it has been left for so long, that we have got to address the potholes first and also the flooding, especially in Langford and Camps Bridge."

Nick says his road warden volunteering is not all altruistic and has its benefits. "Nick Giillon calls it the outdoor gym. Every time I do the road warden scheme, I lose about three pounds, but in between sessions I put it all back on!"

As Nick and Viv reflect upon their time here, they are impressed with how much many residents care about the village. "You have people who come up with ideas like 'let's improve the village green,' or 'let's put some wildflowers there'. It's nice to see the villagers caring about their environment."

What will they miss? "The friendships we have formed," they both reply. "But the new house needs some work, so we have told friends to come and see us – and bring a paint brush and a shovel."

Ann Quon Cordingley

Thoughts for February from Peter Cordingley

The Post Office has been in the news a lot, as I'm sure you're aware. Reading the distressing reports of how the operators of sub-post offices across the country were persecuted for crimes most of them never committed, I thought back to the days when Newton St Cyres had its own post office and shop. For those readers who weren't around at the time, it was situated opposite the village green, halfway between the Station Road junction on the A377 and Belluno, in what is now a private home.

Truth be told, in the days just before it closed down for good in June 2019, it wasn't much of a Post Office, nor much of a village store for that matter. One of the first reports I did back then for the *Newton Wonder* was to interview the outgoing sub-postmaster on why he was quitting. His answer was straightforward. The income from the post office operation was small and getting smaller, and the revenue from the shop was not enough to make up the difference. He simply couldn't survive.

You can see why. Government cost cutting after cost cutting slashed remuneration packages by up to 20% between 2012 and last year, even before inflation was taken into account. The hourly take-home income of around 70% of sub-postmasters and mistresses across the country is now calculated to be less than the national minimum wage. No surprise, then, that so many operators pulled down the shutters and handed back the keys. Just as happened here in Newton St Cyres.

And let's not forget that the once-wonderful Post Office used to be thought of as one of the UK's most admired public institutions, up there with the BBC and the NHS. Traditionally, village post offices have been a place for advice, for supplies, sometimes for tourist information and for a host of other services beyond handling mail and paying out pensions. For the elderly and infirm, the local post office was almost a second home – a place for a chat and to catch up on events.

So what has happened? The answer, of course, is the government. That's what has happened. It has stood by with its hands in its pockets while the Post Office and so many other public services (think the NHS or the police, or local councils or pretty well anything you like) have been broken by a lack of government funding.

If that's not bad enough, it has now been revealed that some 700 Post Office branch managers have been publicly shamed and bullied, all because the computer system imposed on them by the government made it look like they were stealing from the system. You know the result as well as me. Some branch

managers went to jail. Others were bankrupted. Even those who never went to court were financially ruined by having to make good nonexistent shortfalls. At least four committed suicide, as we saw in the harrowing re-enactment of one of those suicides in ITV's remarkable "Mr Bates vs the Post Office".

It's all too awful for words. So here's a question. Why did nobody in the government or the Post Office management notice that hundreds of previously law-abiding Post Office employees across the country suddenly appeared to have turned en masse to a life of crime? Answers, please – though I think we all know the answer.

TACKLE THE WINTER BLUES BY SHARING YOUR MEMORIES

Do you feel a bit deflated in the new year? Maybe you miss the cheer and hustle associated with the festive season, feel wiped out or even underwhelmed after all the build-up. What better way to overcome the winter blues than by sharing your memories over a chat and a cup of tea?

The Reminiscence Project is an ongoing project run by Crediton Library, which collects memories of people living, or who used to live, in Mid Devon. Volunteers visit people in their own homes or in the community to chat about their younger years, school, jobs, or anything else they might like to talk about.

The conversations are recorded and stored online in a digital collection. This is open to the public for all to access, whether they want to find out about how their local area has changed over the years, whether they'd like to know what it was like to live in a certain time period or whether they just enjoy hearing other people's stories.

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, this project has been made possible thanks to money raised by National Lottery players.

If you would like to set up a time to have a chat with one of our volunteers, or if you'd like to find out more about the project, you can get in touch via email: crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk or phone: 01363 772578.

Redlands is feeling much better, thank you!

The Redlands Primary Care practice in Crediton has had its fair share of criticism over the past year or so. And the two partners who run the place say much of it is well deserved. But they told Ann Quon Cordingley that things are already changing for the better

Long delays for appointments, sitting endlessly on the phone waiting for someone to pick up, never seeing the same doctor twice. That's just a sampling of the things that some people are saying about the Redlands practice since it opened in 2021 with the merger of the old Chiddenbrook and New Valley (Newcombes) practices.

Put those points to the two partners, Dr Jo (Joanna) Harris and Kirsty Conder, and they nod. "We were



Kirsty Conder

trying to merge two practices with two different cultures during the Covid lockdown," says Jo, a GP and former partner at the old Newcombes (New Valley) practice. It was also on top of an increase in patient demand and a change in health care nationwide. "It was the perfect storm," adds clinical pharmacist Kirsty Conder, who was also with the old Newcombes practice.



Dr Jo Harris

The pair are refreshingly open about criticisms levelled at the practice. Having lived through the fallout of the merger, they are keen to explain how they're addressing problems now that Redlands is under their management. The pair took over the business side in April last year, adding that responsibility to their full-time professional roles as GP and clinical pharmacist.

In a wide-ranging discussion that lasted more than hour, they talked candidly about the problems plaguing the practice when it opened and the changes they have introduced to improve quality of care for the 16,300 patients in the Crediton catchment area.

The biggest development has been the way health care is delivered these days. Simply put, going to the doctor's is not what it used to be. Under changes introduced across the NHS, the shift is away from the old model of seeing your GP for all your needs. Now the emphasis is on consulting with a multi-disciplinary primary care team designed to better support both the GP and patient. It's a shift that, clearly, many disgruntled members of the public aren't aware of or understand.

Under this new primary care system, patients are still assigned their own GP, but that doesn't mean they will get to see that GP every time they make an appointment unless they fall into the "need for continuity of care" category. And that is one of the complaints from patients who feel they are being shuffled from one doctor to another and not given the attention they need.

"We've turned away from a culture where the GP did everything," says Jo. "The GP today is like a consultant in a hospital team, overseeing everything. Now, you don't necessarily have contact with the GP. There is now a team of paramedics, clinical pharmacists, first-contact physiotherapists, technicians, social prescribers and mental-health practitioners to support the GP." Call it multi-disciplinary primary care.

These days if you ring up to see a doctor, the receptionist (now called care navigators) will ask some questions and advise on the best person to see. "If, you have a painful knee, then the receptionist, can say 'I'll book you in with the first-contact physio, because I can get you in this week and they are the best person to advise you,' says Jo. "We don't want patients to feel obstructed but, instead, guided to the right place." And in this case, the right place is not necessarily your assigned GP, although they will be kept informed of your situation.

What happens if you insist on seeing your usual GP because you have a special relationship with him or her? "That's fine," says Kirsty, "but you may have to wait a bit longer. If somebody is acutely unwell, we would encourage you to see the duty doctor or anybody with whom you can get a same-day appointment."

When it comes to making an appointment, the criticism is over how long it takes to secure a spot. Like many practices, Redlands has also suffered from doctor shortages and growing patient demand post-Covid. Under a triage system, the practice is committed to giving patients an appointment either on the day based on their clinical need or within 14 days. A duty doctor assigned to monitor the triage list will advise whether someone needs to be seen that day or if they can wait.

And if someone demands to be seen the same day? "If there is an absolute clinical need that day, they will be seen," assures Jo. "Anybody who needs to be seen that day, we will stay to see them."

Despite the problems, Redlands has its fans. A Louise wrote to the NHS: "I have always struggled with getting through to book a GP appointment [at Redlands] around my working day. I emailed in and the manager was very accommodating with arranging an appointment around my busy work schedule. Brilliant customer service, very grateful."

continued on next page

And a Vivien wrote: “I have received excellent care from the team at Redlands, especially recently when I started to become seriously unwell. Helpful receptionists who are doing their best despite demand being high, and knowledgeable, caring doctors, nurses and paramedics. I am very grateful to this practice for everything they do. Thank you.”

The transition to the new system of primary care nationwide has probably been tougher for Redlands than most other practices. Against the backdrop of merging two practices with different cultures, there was Covid. The result: Difficult times. “We couldn’t just close for the move,” says Jo. “We were still seeing patients on the Friday and did the move on the weekend, ready to open in the new premises on Monday. It was all hands-on-deck with staff and family members unpacking and putting stuff away.”

When the new practice opened, it was quickly evident that the two teams did things differently. “In the early days, Covid meant we couldn’t get our teams to meet together face to face,” says Jo. “We couldn’t streamline processes or look at how it was going to work. Literally, people landed next to people they’d never seen before. It was difficult to align the different cultures.”

The chaos resulted in some partners stepping down and staff departures at a time when the practice was, like many nationwide, struggling with staff shortages and increased patient demand. “Three partners stepped down and away from the business side to take salaried positions,” says Jo. “That unsettled some of the salaried doctors working here and some left for various reasons. It left us very short.”

Locums had to be brought in, affecting continuity of care with patients and backlogs developing, with waiting lists as long as 700. “We probably didn’t run as we wanted and were not able to offer what we wanted, says Kirsty. “We knew it was awful.”

For the past year, the practice has worked hard to streamline systems, change its organisational structure and recruit and retain staff, especially GPs. And now Jo and Kirsty feel they have turned a corner. “We had new GPs joining, and in a matter of two weeks in mid-October we went from 700 people waiting for care to just a handful,” says Kirsty. Currently there are about 75 staff working at all levels, including more than a dozen GPs. Jo and Kirsty say they expect to be up to their full staff complement by this spring.

Probably the most common complaint is how long it takes to get through on the phone to make an appointment. “Despite having a team of seven or eight frontline staff manning the reception desk, answering the phones and dealing with prescriptions, Kirsty acknowledges that there have been problems. “We know the phone system causes frustration and we’re trying to work out ways to address that,” says Kirsty. Part of the problem is that telephone receptionists usually burn out after two years because of the stress of dealing with impatient callers who can sometimes be abusive.



Redlands Surgery

Mondays are probably the worst for people calling in to get an appointment. “On a Monday morning there might be 90 to 100 people that the duty doctor is trying to make decisions about,” says Jo.

Another patient concern is the move to online care. For some, having to provide information online through forms and questionnaires can be frustrating or impersonal and can never replace the human contact and continuity of care that is the cornerstone of general practice. Jo denies the new system is meant to replace human contact. “It actually helps us triage,” she says. “If someone sends an online request for an appointment, we tend to get more information than if we got it over the phone.”

These days doctors don’t work an old-fashioned week, which some cynics suggest is because they are well salaried. Jo hits back at such a suggestion and says most doctors will do three days a week of hard-core face to face clinic for 10 hours each day. “Then you are having to do two to three hours of paperwork and sometimes you are having to ring people, and all the admin the GP has to process or messages from patients. You can only do that for a certain number of days because it is not sustainable,” she says. “We’ve had a couple of GPs who were doing four days and they dropped down. For us, the day often finishes when you can’t do any more, not when you’ve finished – because you never finish.”

The pair has been so busy implementing change and running the practice that they feel communication with the public has suffered. “We now have a patient participation group where people can come and have their say, bring their frustrations and talk to Jo and me and other practice staff members,” says Kirsty. “We welcome any feedback, good and bad.”

Going forward, the pair have set targets in several areas, including better response times for answering patient calls. “Our aim is to answer 95% of calls. Now it’s 77%, which has gone up 20% in the last six months. They also aim to turn around prescriptions within 48 hours from when they leave Redlands and arrive at the chemists ready to be dispensed. For blood test results, the target is for them to be looked at within 48 hours. “We generally hit that,” says Kirsty.

continued on next page

Jo and Kirsty feel that the changes they have implemented these past several months are working. "People are happy working here. We've got retention of staff and better recruitment. We've been able to fill all our vacancies. A year ago that looked a bit scary," says Kirsty.

As they look to the future, their message to patients? "What we want really to do is to make sure the patient's journey is as smooth as possible, by reducing that frustration of contacting the practice, making sure people end up where they need to be the first time," says Jo.

"But the most important message is to be kind to our team on the telephone because they are working so hard. It's a tough old gig down there," she says.

Pictures by Ann Quon Cordingley

Advice on XL Bully Dogs

The Parish Council has been receiving reports of XL Bully dogs being exercised in the more remote countryside and woodlands around Newton St Cyres. As you may know, this type of dog is now subject to the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act. New restrictions came into force on 31st December 2023, making it a legal requirement for all XL Bully dogs to be kept on a lead and muzzled when in public. This includes on private land accessed by members of the public. It is also now illegal to breed, sell, advertise, gift, exchange, abandon or let XL Bully dogs stray.

Owners of XL Bullies must have registered them by 1st February 2024. After that date, it will be a criminal offence to own an unregistered dog, with owners facing a criminal record and an unlimited fine.

For full details of the new restrictions, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-restrictions-on-xl-bully-dog-now-in-force>.

Members of the public who witness anyone exercising an XL Bully that is not on a lead and muzzled are encouraged to report this to the Crediton Rural South Neighbourhood Police Team by calling 101 or by contacting PCSO Nicola Payne (see Who's Who list at the back of the magazine).

We recommend you to take care and be vigilant when out walking, particularly in the more inaccessible parts of the parish. You are advised not to challenge owners of Bully Dogs directly but to report the occurrence to the police.

Peter Stephenson
Community Resilience Lead
Newton St Cyres Parish Council

How well do you know your village?

Can you answer the following questions:-

1. WHEN was the picture taken?
2. WHERE was it taken?
3. WHO is in the Picture?

No 85



For a closer look see our website:-www.newtonwonder.net
On the Home Page you will find this picture and a link to all
the quiz photos so far and an easy form to submit your
answers.

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

I hope that you all had a good Christmas and take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year. May 2024 be a good year, with success in your gardens and plenty of joy from your hard work.

February can be a cold and grey month, so any plants which bring brightness and colour to the garden are most welcome. Add to this a wonderful fragrance and Hamamelis – the Witch hazel is a winner, covering all these categories. Hamamelis grows best in a free-draining, non-chalky soil and in a location that is open and with sun, not deep shade. It is not a small plant and the branches can spread widely as they mature, ending up with a shrub / small tree that is wider than it is in height! The stunning spidery flowers, which are mostly yellow, but can also be in shades of orange and red are shown off to their best with an evergreen background, so planting in front of an evergreen hedge is ideal. This will also help retain the scent within that area, as the hedge provides protection from the wind. Underplanting with snowdrops, winter aconites and crocuses add to the overall beauty of the plant.

If this is the encouragement that you need, then varieties you may consider are Arnold Promise, Aurora, Vesna & Pallida. Plant them in a wide rather than deep hole, and mulch well. In addition to the amazing flowers, these varieties should also give great autumn colour. Hamamelis are classed as hardy through the UK (to around -10C) and should not normally require pruning for a few years. If pruning is necessary, the cut should be two buds from the base of the previous year's growth.

Primroses were in flower again before Christmas and writing this mid January, the daffodil bulbs are sending their leaves up through the soil and grass, as are the snowdrops. The birds have now taken all of the berries on the Cotoneaster and are quickly working their way through the berries on the Myrtle. I hope that many of you will have taken part in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch (26-28th January) and I will include the results in an article later this year.

Jobs that can be carried out in February include:-

- * Ensure that your tender plants have protection – cloches, fleece etc
- * Seed potatoes are in the garden centres so you may want to try a different variety this year? Good first earlies are Swift and Maris Bard. Some time ago Gardeners' World carried out some trials and found that first earlies benefitted the most from chitting. This is where the seed potatoes are placed in a flat container (e.g. egg tray) in a frost free location (windowsill or greenhouse) in order to prepare them for planting. This could result in a crop 10 days earlier. Second earlies also benefitted a little, but



Camelia



Snowdrops

maincrop remained unaffected. Good second earlies Charlotte & Kestrel and maincrop Desiree and Cara. Sarpo Mira is also maincrop and blight resistant.

- * Feed fruit bushes with a high potassium plant food around the base. Remove any 'weeds' by hand first, and then sprinkle according to the packet instructions. If there is no forecast of rain, then water in. This will ensure that they have sufficient nutrients to develop flower buds and fruits.
- * Prune Cornus so that you will have good coloured stems next year. Aim to keep as many stems as possible as one year old wood. Cut back the weakest stems to the base, select the strongest coloured stems and cut back to a pair of healthy buds and remove the lowest and thickest wood to avoid congestion at the base. This will also encourage new coloured growth.
- * Ensure that any saved seeds that you have stored are still dry and continue to keep them in a cool dark place until required. On a cold, snowy or damp day when you don't feel like working in the garden, you may also take the time to organise them into planting date order.

continued on next page

What's On in February?

Our shortest month – although this year is a Leap Year, so why not have a bonus YOU day!

- * 12 Jan 2024 to 9 Mar 2024 Snowdrops at The Garden House 2024 Festival. Buckland Monochorum nr Yelverton 10.30am – 3.30pm every Friday, Saturday & Sunday.
- * 1st – 11th February – RHS Rosemoor Celebration of Snowdrops 10am – 4pm plus guided daily walks at 12 noon Normal garden admission applies
- * 2nd, 9th & 17th February – Higher Cherubeer – Snowdrops 2.30 – 4.30pm NGS £5 admission
- * 10 – 18th February Half term at RHS Rosemoor: World on your Windowsill 10am – 5pm daily full details at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor/whats-on/february-half-term-at-rosemoor>
- * Wednesday 19th February 7.30pm – Upton Pyne Garden Club. Speaker Stephen Powles on "wildlife photography in pursuit of the improbable"
- * Saturday 24th February 11am – 2pm – Sustainable Crediton Share, Grow, Eat at the Boniface Centre, Crediton
- * Tuesday 27th February 7pm Crediton Garden Club – Speaker Caradoc Doy The Story of Veitch Orchids
- * Wednesday 28th February at 7.30pm – NSC Garden Club. Speaker Saul Walker on Propagation
- * Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd March RHS Rosemoor Community Open Weekend. "Visit RHS Garden Rosemoor for just £1 and experience spring in this special place. At this time of year, the beautiful garden is literally bursting into life. Relax on a peaceful lakeside stroll and admire the sunny swathes of daffodils as you go". Pre- booking for the £1 offer is essential.

Happy Gardening

Nicola Baker



Devonshire apple pancakes

Prepare your favourite pancake batter adding grated cooking apple to the mixture- 50g (2oz) apple to 100g (4oz) flour. Serve the pancakes with an apple compote made by stewing cooking apples with cider and sweetening with honey or brown sugar. A dollop of clotted cream to finish!

Paul Cleave

NEWTON ST CYRES GARDENING CLUB

ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME BACK

SAUL WALKER



**who will be speaking on PROPAGATION
on Wednesday 28th February at 7.30pm
in NSC Parish Hall**

£2.50 admission to include Tea/Coffee & Biscuits.

All Welcome - Do come and join us!

When Saul spoke at our meeting last year,
it was very well attended and we are so pleased
to welcome him back.

He is a most interesting speaker
with many years of experience & will
happily answer any questions that you may have.

Nikki and Mark Chambers would like to invite you to come and walk around our beautiful 25 acre gardens.
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CONTACT June 01392 841272



Monday February 19th @ 7.30pm
Our speaker for the evening will be
Local Wildlife Photographer
STEPHEN POWLES

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY IN PURSUIT OF THE
IMPROBABLE**

Monday March 18th @ 7.30pm
Our speaker for this evening will be
JOHN WALTERS - Dartmoor wildlife artist



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More details next month or call Chris 01392 851970

At each of these events there will be a "seed swop" corner
where you are invited to bring any spare seeds you
have and maybe swop them for others you quite fancy!
RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS

Jenny Garne grew up in the village. At first in the middle of the village and then in Tytheing Close. She kept diaries and here she shares an extract from her journal which describes the winter of 1978

The Weather in February 1978

Extracts From My Journal

Candlemas Day was sunny, dry and windy, so the saying goes 'winter was not yet to take flight'.



On Sunday 5th [February], took our dog for a walk along the Creedy where snowdrops were in flower. Buzzards were showing courtship activity.

On getting up on the morning of the 9th, it was snowing flakes of all sizes and very fluttery. None settled and had

stopped by 10am and the sun shone. Snow fell again from 4.30pm and the temperature dropped to around minus 6C. In the morning there was a hoar frost and our bedroom window was frozen on the inside. There was a hoar frost the following morning.

On the 12th my sister and I took our dog for another walk along the Creedy in another hoar frost. Mallard ducks were doing a bit of courting, two robins were fighting and we saw a snipe and a bullfinch.



My boss let me leave early from work in Exeter to catch the 3.30pm bus home on the 15th when it had just started to rain, but by 5pm it was sleeting and by 6pm snowing and settling. We were encountering a blizzard. Cars and lorries were getting stuck on the hill between the village centre and primary school. For three hours my brother Roger Beer, Will Ashmore, Colin and Dougie West, Pete and Ron Nethercott and others (I did not note their names) helped to move the stuck vehicles. At 10.30pm the electricity supply failed and we went to bed by candlelight.

The following day the high path from the churchyard to the farm was impassable so my sister had to walk along the main road to reach the walled garden at Home Farm, where she worked. The snow had brought down several trees. Tobogganing commenced in the steep field at the top of Sandown Lane. From 3pm snow fell again. Vehicles once again struggled up the hill out of the village but in fact there was hardly any traffic, the police advising that no one should travel. Two lorries became stuck on the hill and nothing could pass. Tobogganing continued on the 17th and 18th when snow started falling again around 2.30pm and continued through the night. On the 19th I was first up in our household to see it was still snowing and I reckoned it had reached three feet deep, nearly reaching the ground-floor window sills.

On 20th no cars could get out of Tytheing Close. No buses were running. I walked down Station Road with the dog, passing the river. A snipe and moorhen took no notice of us such were the conditions. Later that day we walked as far as Keepers and to get there we had to climb snow drifts. No one could get out of Bailey and Keepers and their phone wires were down. That day was the best day for tobogganing.

On the 21st my mum and I managed to get to work in Exeter but about 3pm mum rang me to say the road from Cowley Bridge was closed by the police. There were no buses running. Mum and Grace Hill had to walk all the way from Cowley Bridge to Newton. I managed to contact Sheila Clake (she lived in Shuttern Close) who worked in Queen Street and got a lift home in her car but we didn't get back to the village until 6.15pm (I assume we left Exeter at 5pm). On the way home the police stopped us twice to ask where we were going. Apparently the road was closed because the police wanted to assemble a convoy!

I hope you find these entries interesting, from one of my journals I have kept over the years and I'm sure those of you who remember this time will have memories of your own. Our family lived at Tytheing Close and I was nearly 20. Back then the Creedy banks here were quite open and not so wooded and of course the school was at the top of the hill.

Jenny Garne

February on the Farm

Rising spirits

The winter lingers while the sun gets higher. The dawn chorus is building, the birds are getting on with life, all pairing up on St Valentine's Day, as the old saying goes. I've been enjoying the mobile app Merlin. It identified a great flutter of small birds in the tops of the trees as siskins. Deer started out of the copse as we walked down the field, elegant and shy. The winter storms have taken their toll on some older trees. I feel the pang of the loss of a beloved friend, but they leave room for new life. Walking in the woods, we see the regeneration that comes with light: the coppiced chestnut growing vigorously, the seedlings carpeting the forest floor.

The sunlight, too, animates our new solar panels, that join our existing ones in feeding power into the farm. We will use as much as possible on the farm. That is another step on our way to reduce our carbon output to zero by 2030.

Crops that had struggled in the wet of early winter now look better – a reminder, if we need it, of how we need to look after our soils. Leaves nourish the soil life, taking the sun's bounty down through the roots, sharing that with the hidden life below the surface, which structures the soil allowing the water to flow not too quick and not too slow. Roots and the life beyond in turn feed the plants above.

Piles of gently steaming manure compost quietly in fields waiting for the moment to release their stored nutrients. The straw came from the fields, and provided a comfy and absorbent bed for animals overwinter. Soon we return it to the land, ready to grow the next crop, completing the cycle.

On our margins and orchards, the thatch of old grass, dried and white, gives shelter to little creatures. In our main grazing fields, last year's growth is more vital and tasty. Shy growth starts the new season, intense green hard at work to capture the sun's energy.

The new calves come in the spring herd. Each one feels like a miracle. Hooves washed in amniotic fluid come first, then unbelievably long legs, a nose, the head, finally squeeze the shoulders out and the calf falls on the ground, shocked into its first breath. Mother licks the calf until it rises on unsteady legs, and nuzzles round till it finds the appetising teat. Cow and calf settle into the first meal.

Calves join their own herd, bonding to the people who bring them milk and their herd mates, lying down snuggling together. They and their older cousins will stay

in the barn a little longer till the weather warms up. Our cows make their first forays out to pasture. They riotously show their enthusiasm in one of the most joyful sights of the farming year. The gate opens, and matrons, grandmothers, young cows all take the first slow steps, toss their heads, break into a run, leap and kick into the pasture. Heads down, eat grass and pretend that didn't happen, just the slightest butt of the head reminding themselves they are out.

Warm milk in the vats turns from liquid to solid in that daily miracle. Cheesemakers judge finely and work hard to coax the curd from the milk and into cloth-bound cylinders. In the store, the magical combination of time and mould, mite and care turn the curd into the magnificence of a mature cheddar. Flavours unfold in your mouth, telling the story of the soil, the grass, the cows and the people who bring it to you.

We wondered how useful it would be for the people we serve to open our shop on a Saturday not a Monday? We'd love to hear your thoughts. Please email us at shop@quicke.co.uk if you would be keen for the shop to be open on a Saturday.

Mary Quicke

Ode to the Trumpet

In aid of Crediton Church Music Endowment Fund

14th April, 2024

Holy Cross, Parish Church, 3pm

THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND

An entertaining and informative demonstration of the history and development of the trumpet with performances of well-known repertoire.

Alistair Mackie, former principal trumpeter of the Philharmonia Orchestra,
with Andrew Millington, piano and organ.

Followed by tea and cake

Newton Ramblers' Boxing Day Walk

After a Christmas when, let's face it, we simply eat, drink and relax, it is lovely to get together for the annual Boxing Day Walk led by Nigel and Rosemary Chambers. This year, a group of 12 shared cars to the top of Pennsylvania, to walk through Stoke Woods. At present I am reading a book called 'The Beast of Stoke Woods' – Exeter crime story, by local author David Axle. Fortunately we did not come across any beast (animal or human) during our walk!

Stoke Woods is only 2 miles from Exeter city centre, with stunning views of the River Exe. It is a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and Forestry England works in partnership with several organisations to maintain and improve wildlife habitat.

We started the walk from the top of Stoke Valley Road. This took us along a footpath and up to the site of the Iron Age fort. At the very top, there is a lovely deer sculpture, which is where the group photo was taken by Martin Taylor. Due to the recent downpours, the route that we then took had to be altered, as much of the original walk was under water. The new route was still muddy, but it was good to be out in the fresh air with friends.

Something that I had not come across before was a specific camera mount installed in the woods by Devon Wildlife Trust as part of their 5-year Citizen Science Project – Saving Devon's Treescapes. This encourages you to use the mount to take photographs which, when submitted, will be used as a record of the trees in known locations throughout the seasons and years. The project also enhances the treescapes by planting native broadleaf trees across Devon, in response to the devastating impact of Ash dieback disease. Further information on this excellent project can be found at <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/saving-devons-treescapes> and <https://devontreescapes.com/home>

Our walk concluded with homemade mince pies, brandy cream and sloe gin at the incredible Pynes House. Now a spectacular wedding venue, the original estate dates from Norman times when the Du Pinn family arrived from France. King John granted them land near Upton Pyne and this became their home for 10 generations. Around 1700, the original parts of the present house were built.

Queen Victoria visited the 1st Earl of Iddesleigh, Lord Northcote (Stafford Henry Northcote), who was Chancellor of the Exchequer between 1874 and 1880, and owned the house at that time. The house is also said to have close links with literature as the second Earl, Walter Stafford Northcote, was an admirer of the work of Jane Austen and believed that the house was the inspiration for Barton Place (Sense and Sensibility). <https://www.pyneshouse.co.uk/about/>

We welcome you to join us on our walks during 2024, which are advertised each month in the Newton Wonder.

Nicola Baker



The group on the Iron Age Fort



Treescape from the camera mount in Stoke Woods

Do You Remember...February?

February 1974

The Church is to have a new flag which has been donated anonymously and are offering residents the chance to view the Tithe Map which is some 8 feet square.

During the recent storm damage in the churchyard a big Macrocarpa Cypress tree fell missing the Vicarage wall and the path. The tree was 50 years old and over 70 feet tall. **Reg Bray** remembered planting the seed in a pot!

The Young Vic is holding a Junk Sale for their funds.

The Parish Council have to decide which street lights to turn off to save power and reported that a new bus shelter had been put up in the village.

The speaker at the Coffee Club was **Gilbert Sutter**, a Beefeater.

A letter from **Rebecca Scott** talked about the wildlife in Bangladesh, such as chipmunks, mongoose, jackals and musk-rats.

The Parish Council were asking Exeter City Council for action on the bottle necks at Cowley Bridge

February 1984

This was the first magazine to be published under the editorship of **Stuart Martin**.

A nice letter appeared from **John and Claire Scott** thanking NSC for the support the parish had given to them during their stay in the village.

Notice was given of a vacancy on the Parish Council following the **Rev. John Scott** leaving the parish.

A meeting was being held following an announcement from Devon County Council that they intended to reduce the teaching staff at the School by 50%.

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February 1994

The Parish Council were urged to send suggestions about the Local Government Reorganisation to **Mr Bull** at Mid Devon District Council.

The Art group met **Paul Hardy** and watched him create a pastel painting of a cove.

The Young Farmers advertised their programme for the February meetings and they included a skittles evening versus the

Advisory, a Blind Date competition and Disco, and visits to the cinema and a dry ski slope.

An article appeared on the history of the Recreation Ground from about 1914 to its present form, by **John Durrant**.

Mary Quicke posted a notice about the closure of non-dedicated footpaths on the estate on the 1st February.

February 2004

Gail Meldrum had resigned from the Editorial team of the Newton Wonder and her role was taken over by **Richard Nicholls**.

The Parish Hall adopted a No Smoking policy.

Ivy Gratton gave up organising the weekly Bingo and this was being taken over by **Joyce Rook**.

The Parish Hall had been able to replace the heaters in the Hall.

Langford Park reported on a busy year and their Residents Association under the chairmanship of **Roland Burford** was going from strength to strength.

The Rambling group visited the Snowdrop Valley on Exmoor and undertook a walk on Raddon Hill.

Angie Delve produced an interesting article on 'Gardening with the Moon and the Stars'.

February 2014

The Recreation Ground Committee wanted to replace some of the play equipment. **Mark Smaldon** took on the project and was aware that the last bit was the difficult bit - finding funding!

Newton Village Revels was advertised for Sunday 6 July from 12noon - 5pm at the Recreation Ground.

At the December Community Support Group Meeting were a defibrillator was planned for the village and needed 3 first aid trained volunteers. The defibrillator would be located outside the Crown and Sceptre, to ensure that it is somewhere that is easy to get hold of.

At the meeting, it was pointed out that if you are put into the position where you needed to help someone, please make sure that you are safe and fit to help him or her. Otherwise, it could create two casualties rather than one!

At the Parish Council Meeting Cllr **Southcott** reported that Network Rail were to install a 'Harrington Hump' at the Station during January and this would make getting on and off the trains much easier for passengers. Cllr **Margaret Squires** agreed to raise the question about extra trains stopping at NSC with the Head of Transportation Services for Devon County Council and the Council will also press for this to happen once the 'Hump' is installed

The Parish Council announced that Vodafone were to hold an official launch of their new service in the village on the 14th February and **Mel Stride**, MP would be attending.

Over the past year one of our volunteer litter pickers made a note of the weight of litter gathered from Court Orchard and Station Road. The total weight collected was 57.18Kg.

Not included in that figure were one flat screen TV, three footballs, a large bird cage and a two-pound coin. The last item was recycled!

Newton St Cyres Primary School pupil **Annabelle Meakin-Lee** (age 5) won a competition to design her Member of Parliament's (**Mel Stride**) Christmas card. This year **Mr Stride** opened the design up to a competition to all 43 Primary Schools within his constituency. **Annabelle** won with her delightful picture of a vibrant Christmas tree.

At the Newton St Cyres History Group December Meeting they went on a journey with the Reverend John Penrose, his wife, and his daughter Frances Penrose. Through the letters of John and Frances sent home to Penryn, where the rest of the large family were being looked after by his daughter, Peggy, they followed a journey of 180 miles by private chaise and stage coach up to Bath and back again, in 1766.

The Village Hall had the Main Hall and the Club Room re-roofed. The total cost was £18,000.

Viv and Nick Henderson

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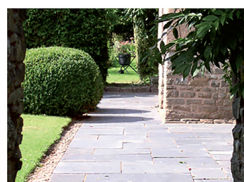
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Thursday 1st February - 7.00pm (Bar available)

Jazz on the Green presents - Jazz with Martin Dale on saxophone
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featuring the fantastic Delicious Sri Lankan food by Sepali Godakana's

Tickets: £25 from www.wegottickets.co.uk/event/602634



Friday 10 February - 7.30pm (Bar available)

Living Room Theatre - The Washing Machine of Destiny
Devised and performed by Luca Saunders and Philip Robinson.
Directed by Pippa Marriott "The Boys Are Back In Town"

Tickets: £10/£6 Tickets will sell like hot cakes - book early!

Friday 16 February - 7.30pm (Bar available)

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Saturday 2 March - 2.00pm (Bar available)

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Tickets: £14/£12 - (Early Bird tickets until 17 February £12/£10) A Villages in Action collaboration



www.creditonartscentre.org
info@creditonartscentre.org

Fantastic opportunity for 11-13 year olds from Newton St Cyres?

(or the surrounding area)

11th June 2024 will be the Memory Relay celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Rots

The village of Rots is inviting the young people of Newton St Cyres to join them in this historic ceremony

The village of Rots in Normandy, which is twinned with Newton St Cyres, is inviting 10 young people from Newton St Cyres or the surrounding area to take part in the memory relay from Friday 7 to Wednesday 12 June 2024. Pupils must be aged between 11 and 13 and, of course, accompanied by adults, teachers or parents.

The cost of the trip is your responsibility, but I am sure you will be able to find grants to help pay for it.

The commune of Rots, the "Rendez-vous 44" association and the French families will cover all the costs of accommodation, food, tickets for visits and transport in Normandy.

We will send you a detailed programme as soon as it has been drawn up, but as of now we can envisage a visit to the landing beaches of June 1944, some military cemeteries, including that at St Laurent sur mer, museums such as Arromanches and St Mère église, and of course participation in the official local commemorations. There will also be time for exchanges with young people of different nationalities (German, American, Canadian, English and French). This includes a session on writing messages of peace that will be sealed in the tree of the future and unveiled only in June 2044, 100 years after the Normandy landings.

We can also plan a visit to Mt St Michel, which is an hour and a half from Rots, and a visit to the Caen Peace Memorial.

Interested? - Please contact Keith Mitchell:- tel 01392 851596

or email keithsjmitchell@hotmail.com

The Tree of the Future

Twenty years ago during the 60th anniversary of D-Day, the children of the Roseaux school, accompanied by their German, English, American and Canadian counterparts, erected a tree called the Tree of the Future. That year, in 2004, surrounded by some twenty British veterans of the 46th Royal Marines Commando (RMC), students had inserted messages of peace into the copper shoots - messages that will not be opened until June 2044, at the same time as the time capsule in Colleville Cemetery.

In 2009, 2014, and 2019, more children from these nations added their messages to the Tree of the Future. In 2019 a new branch appeared containing the collective messages of children and adolescents, from the five nations present.

Poems and letters by veterans were read, before the poem Relay of Memory. The poignant ceremony will be remembered by both the children and adults present. The next meeting and ceremony will be in 2024, with the messages all being read in 2044.

The Tree of the Future



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Our Vision and Goals

To provide hot freshly cooked healthy
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To empower those who wish to learn
how to prepare healthy meals



**DELIVERY WITHIN THE VILLAGE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME WHY NOT EMAIL US AND WE WILL TAKE
YOUR MEAL TO YOU (1.00 - 2.00) Or you can collect it from the Parish Hall from 12.30 - 2.00pm**

We are looking for volunteers/young people doing their D&V, Tents or looking for community experience for their CV, before attending university. We also would appreciate anyone that is free on a Tuesday or Wednesday from 11 to 3pm to help with our Community Kitchen in Newton St Cyres Parish Hall.

The Weather in Newton St Cyres

In this month’s article we review last November/December’s weather; Overview the weather of 2023; and continue looking at air pollution.

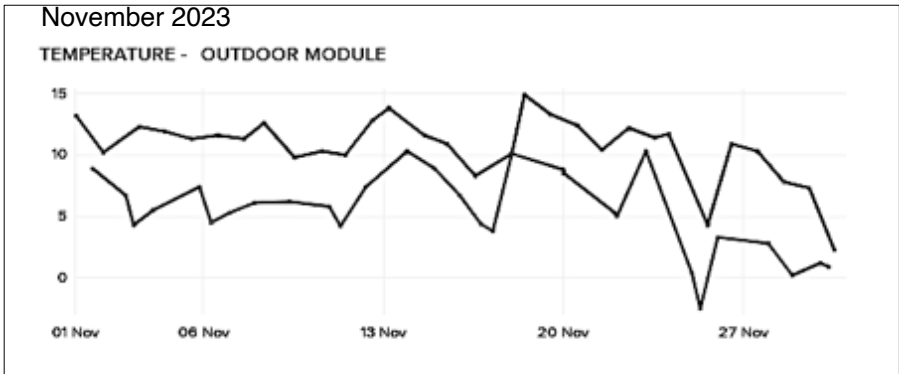
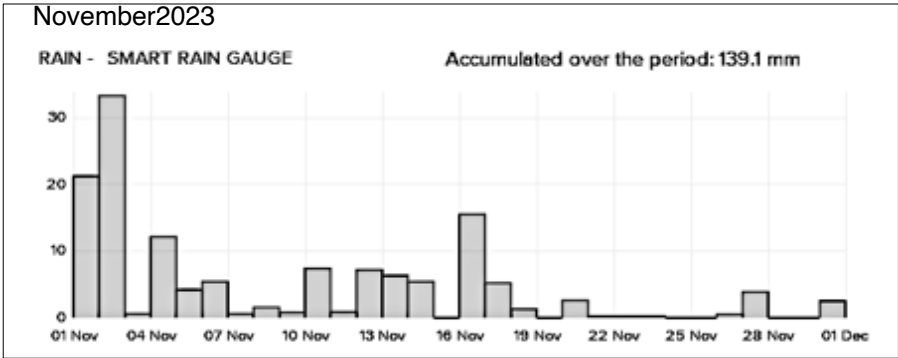
During this period the highest MONTHLY temperatures were 10.1 on 18th November, and 13.7 on 24th December.

The lowest MONTHLY temperatures were -2.5 on 25th November, and -6.0 on 2nd December.

The wettest MONTHLY days were 2nd November at 33.3mm and 3rd December at 20.3 mm.

The sunniest MONTHLY days were 7th November 11.59 kWh and 1st December 9.57 kWh.

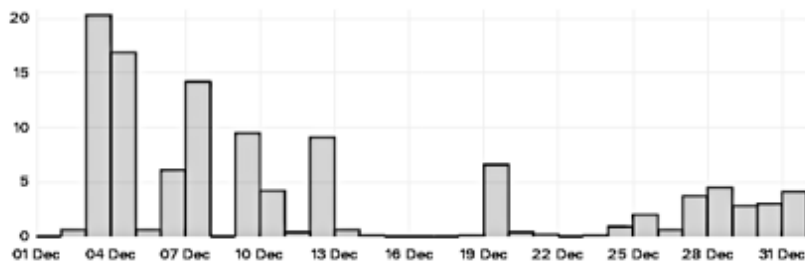
The windiest MONTHLY days were 39mph on 5th November and 40 mph on 27th December.



December 2023

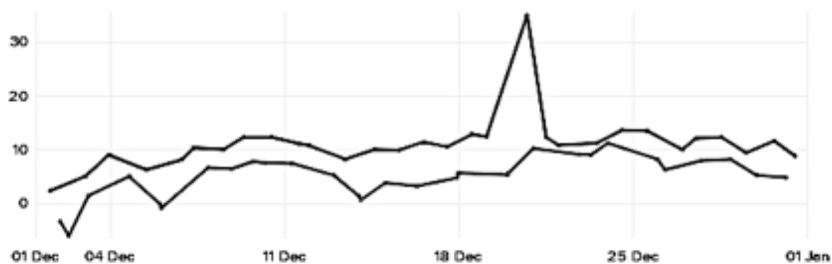
RAIN - SMART RAIN GAUGE

Accumulated over the period: 111.6 mm



December 2023

TEMPERATURE - OUTDOOR MODULE



REVIEW OF HIGHS AND LOWS OF 2023 WEATHER IN NEWTON ST CYRES

The Maximum temperature in 2023 was 31.4 on 11th August.

The minimum temperature was minus 6.0 on both 21st January & 2nd December.

The maximum rainfall was 33.3mm on 2nd November.

The maximum wind speed was 40mph on 27th December.

The sunniest day was on 7th July at 22.4kWh.

What air quality means

Air quality is the term we use to describe how polluted the air we breathe is. When air quality is poor, pollutants in the air may be hazardous to people, particularly those with lung or heart conditions.

Sources of air pollution

Many substances can affect air quality. We're committed to improving air quality in the UK by reducing emissions of the 5 most damaging pollutants. Emissions are the pollution released into the air.

1 Particulate matter (PM or PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀)

Particulate matter is everything in the air that isn't gas. This includes natural sources like pollen, sea spray and desert dust. It also includes human made sources like smoke and dust from exhausts, brakes and tyres. PM can travel large distances with up to 33% of PM_{2.5} originating from non-UK sources and around 15% from natural sources. PM is classified according to size. PM_{2.5} is less than 2.5um (micrometers) across and is the main type of PM which is regulated. PM₁₀ is between 2.5 & 10um across.

PM can get into the lungs and blood and be transported around the body, lodging in the heart, brain and other organs, causing exacerbation & increased mortality from cardio-respiratory diseases and upper respiratory tract infection.

PM emissions have reduced significantly in recent decades but have recently stabilised. This is partly due to an increase in wood burning in homes.

Sources of PM

Particulate emissions in the UK come from:

- 38% from burning wood and coal in domestic open fires and solid fuel stoves
- 12% from road transport
- 13% from solvent use and industrial processes
- 16% from industrial combustion (non-domestic burning)

2 Ammonia (NH₃)

Ammonia is a gas that is released into the atmosphere, mostly from agricultural sources like slurry or other rotting farm waste and fertiliser.

It is deposited back onto land or converted into PM through reactions in the atmosphere (creating ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulphate).

Emissions from ammonia have fallen by 13% since 1990. However since 2013, there has been an increase in emissions of ammonia.

We are committed to reducing emissions of ammonia (from the 2005 baseline) by 8% by 2020 and by 16% by 2030.

Sources of ammonia

Ammonia emissions in the UK come from:

- 88% from farming practices such as storing and spreading manures, slurries, and spreading of inorganic fertilisers
- 4% from the waste sector
- 8% from a wide range of sources such as vehicles, human waste and industry

3 Nitrogen oxide (NO_x)

Nitrogen oxides are a group of gases that are mainly created from burning fossil fuels.

When the gas reacts with others in the air, it can create nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). It also creates **ozone (O₃)** as a reaction product of sunlight & vehicle pollutants. Ozone causes eye & throat irritation, reduced exercise capacity & exacerbation of respiratory diseases.

Nitrogen oxide emissions are decreasing and have fallen by 72% since 1970 (and 27% since 2010). We aim to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (from the 2005 baseline) by 55% by 2020 and 73% by 2030. The UK isn't meeting the current limits of nitrogen dioxide concentration.

Sources of nitrogen oxide

Nitrogen oxide emissions in the UK come from:

- 35% from road transport
- 22% from energy generation
- 19% from industrial combustion
- 17% from other transport, such as rail and shipping

4 Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)

Sulphur dioxide is an acidic gas which can combine with water vapour in the atmosphere to produce acid rain. Sulphur dioxide is an irritant that can affect airways, particularly in those who have asthma.

Emissions of sulphur dioxide are decreasing and have fallen by 97% since 1970.

We currently meet the legal limits for daily and hourly levels of sulphur dioxide in ambient air. We aim to reduce emissions of sulphur dioxide (from 2005 baseline) by 59% by 2020 and 88% by 2030.

Sources of sulphur dioxide

Sulphur dioxide emissions in the UK come from:

- 37% from energy generation
- 22% from industrial combustion
- 22% from domestic burning

5 Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCS)

Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCS) are organic molecules, which differ widely in their chemical composition but can display similar behaviour in the atmosphere. These include vapours from every day products we use at work or home like petrol, solvents, air fresheners, cleaning products and perfumes.

Emissions of these compounds are decreasing and have fallen by 66% since 1970.

We must reduce emissions of NMVOCS (from 2005 baseline) by 32% by 2020 and 39% by 2030.

Sources of NMVOCS

NMVOCS emissions in the UK come from:

- 54% from industrial emissions
- 14% from agriculture
- 8% from domestic and industrial combustion
- 5% from transport

6. Carbon Monoxide. (CO)

CO is produced from biomass & fossil fuel combustion, cigarette smoke and vehicle exhaust.

Carbon monoxide can cause headache, nausea, dizziness, breathlessness, fatigue, visual disturbance, confusion, angina, coma & death.

Rob Crane

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Working from Sketchbooks



Previously an art teacher for 30 years, our guest, Tony Homer, explained that he started keeping a sketchbook when it became a National Curriculum requirement. He now recommends daily sketching to improve drawing skills.

He uses cartridge paper sketchbooks – available from the art shop in Sidmouth. They can be used in a portrait or landscape orientation and can lie flat to allow for double page sketching. To avoid any erasing, Tony normally sketches using a permanent 0.3 fineliner. His resulting sketchbooks predominately consist of black and white line drawings, but he occasionally touches up with colour when back at his studio.

When creating his artwork, he merges pleasing elements of different sketches to produce his composition, drawing, excuse the pun, inspiration from Cubism and artists such as Picasso, Mondrian, Terry Frost and Ben Nicholson. This was demonstrated for us with two urban landscapes. Tony often works on two paintings at a time, as moving from one to the other allows him to work with what he calls 'fresh eyes'.

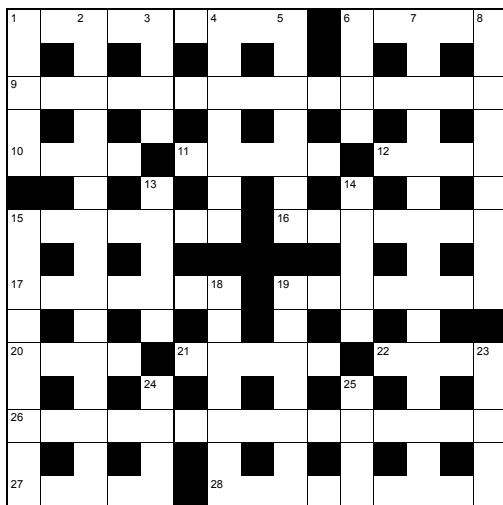
Strong architectural structures were quickly and simply sketched out using a 5b graphite pencil on mount board, with figures and text, such as shop signs, included to provide scale. The mount board was wetted, then he used Matt Medium to dilute the acrylic. This does not reduce the intensity and avoids the 'dulling' effect of white. Stripes of bright orange and ultramarine were boldly applied, using flat brushes in a grid fashion and were allowed to soften on the damp board.

Tony favours bright colour combinations and complementary colours. He continued to work using 'cheap' flat brushes to block in the buildings and figures using a limited palette of French Ultramarine, Prussian Blue and Crimson; with the occasional Paynes Grey for tonality. He took care to ensure, for pictorial accuracy, that the foreground stood out more by employing sharper lines, more detailing and stronger colours. The distortions and reflections in windows and shop fronts were also captured. He enjoys fragmenting and breaking images and exploring 'the split' between reality and abstraction.

A credit card was used to apply the paint, in places, to provide sharper lines, but Tony encouraged us to not overdo this. The text was blocked around rather than painted in, as he believes this to be more effective. Lastly the darker colours of Prussian Blue and Crimson were used to bring elements forward and to provide contrast. These colours mixed together provided a purple glaze to add depth to the windows. The resulting artworks were fresh, vibrant and atmospheric.

Nicola Hussey

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Clairvoyant is to support the nuts in charge (9)
- 6 One with the hump caught male out (5)
- 9 Wife perhaps is inactive business associate (8,7)
- 10 Split reported initially by one newspaper (4)
- 11 Dance follows live jazz (5)
- 12 Song for that man on the radio (4)
- 15 Warm review read out (7)
- 16 Betray one's principles in very popular show (4-3)
- 17 Completely finished with a Latin paramour (3,4)
- 19 Old king hugs wayward son for comfort (7)
- 20 Part of azalea, for example (4)
- 21 Vietnamese perhaps is like Scot (5)
- 22 Oddly ignored fondness for poetry (4)
- 26 Quick excursion to see small railway stations? (7-4,4)
- 27 Act on desire to find most senior member (5)
- 28 Evil bank acquires church, honestly! (9)

DOWN

- 1 Awkward question for affected sort (5)
- 2 Poor formality, I aver, involves one showing this? (4-11)
- 3 Writer's optimism (4)
- 4 Hide treatment from the workers here? (7)
- 5 Generous policeman promises to pay (7)
- 6 Low-life needs time with brief (4)
- 7 Fed poorly no more, somehow getting easy cash (5,3,3,4)
- 8 Left regent to change spectacles (9)
- 13 Start court proceedings? (5)
- 14 Criticism involving northern side (5)
- 15 Drank with heads of state when permitted (9)
- 18 More reckless son provides the bacon (7)
- 19 Punish devious cheats to a point (7)
- 23 Sprinkle water on some flowers (5)
- 24 Most put up with this chap (4)
- 25 Sword turns up in Dundee perhaps (4)

Set by Alberich

Sudoku

All you have to do is fill in the squares so that each row, each column and each square contain all the numbers from 1 - 9.

						7		
	4		5			6	2	
7			1	4	6			
5						1	7	3
				5				
3	6	7						4
			3	7	1			9
	3	9			2		6	
		4						

© Web Sudoku 2024 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to Dec '23/Jan '24Cryptic Crossword

	1	2		3		4		5		6		7		
	P	A	N	E	L	B	E	A	T	E	R	S		
		B		C		L		S		A		P		8
9	A	R	I	Z	O	N	A		10	P	O	R	T	I
	M		G		N		C			I		L		N
11	P	E	A	C	O	C	K		12	C	H	I	N	O
	H		I		M		J			E		Z		E
13	I	N	L	A	Y			14	A	D		15	V	E
	T						C			I				
16	H	E	17	N	P	E	18	C	K	E	D		19	B
	E		O		D						E		R	
21	A	T	T	A	I	N	22	S		23	O	C	E	A
	T		A		F		A			T		A		T
24	R	E	B	U	I	L	D			25	A	D	D	R
	E		I		C		D			P		T		R
		26	T	H	E	D	O	N	E	T	H	I	N	G

The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Looking and Counting Forward!

Sometimes we take some things so much for granted that we don't even question them. They just 'are', as it were. And right at this moment, as I was planning the year ahead, thinking of the services and the other events that are to come, I was thinking about the months of the year – especially February. Now, that is a really odd month. Firstly, it's got challenging pronunciation and spelling– just how is one actually supposed to pronounce it? It certainly doesn't easily roll off the tongue. Do you make sure each letter is clearly heard? Drop the 'a'? Drop the first 'r'? My apologies if I have now got you in to a mental tangle about how the word is pronounced!

Secondly, why is February the only month that only has '28 days clear, and 29 each Leap Year'? (and now many of you are probably reciting that old rhyme – "Thirty days hath September....!). Well, according to the online Encyclopaedia Britannica, it's all down to Roman superstition, and something about even number of days in a month! And then, later, when scientists calculated the exact time the Earth takes to travel around the Sun, they recognised that it was just about 365.25 days, so added an extra 'day' to the year every 4 years, and it seemed to make most sense to add it to February as the shortest month. (Though that's not the whole story concerning leap days, because there is also something about not

adding a day to the year every 100 years, except when the year is able to be exactly divided by 400 – so no leap years in 100, 1800, 1900 – but there was one in 2000. All absolutely crystal clear?).

Thirdly, why is it actually called what it is called. Again, blame the Romans. February is named after their festival of Februa, which was a celebration of cleansing and purification at a time of the winter's last full moon. Now, very interestingly (well, I think so, anyway), February 2nd sees the church celebrating Candlemas, a service to commemorate Jesus' presentation in the Temple at Jerusalem. We hear again, the story of Simoen and of Anna, as Jesus is declared to be the Light of the World! But one of the alternative names for this Christian Festival is the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I won't bore you with all the Levitical Laws, etc, but I did think that there was a certain similarity between what the Romans were celebrating and what was happening within Jewish laws and customs at the time, and now how Christianity has somewhat 'appropriated' the festival – or not.

Before ending this month's letter, I really wanted to offer my deepest thanks to all involved in putting on a wonderful array of services and events over the Christmas period. Every parish and every church were involved throughout the anticipation and expectation of Advent, and then the sheer joy and excitement of Christmas as we once again heralded and celebrated the birth of Jesus!

And finally, watch out for some very creative activities throughout Lent (which starts after Ash Wednesday on 14th February).

All blessings

Tim

Revd Tim Collins [Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community]

Community Food Bank

Newton's is currently in the Church Porch and empties rapidly.....-Please donate!

Imagining the Word

Four creative workshops

Exploring Lent and Easter through Arts & Crafts

These four workshops are an opportunity to explore ideas, thoughts and feelings around Lent and Easter. You are welcome to attend every one or just those you can make.

At the beginning of each workshop, we will spend a few moments considering the theme for the week, have a short bible reading in connection with that theme, and then toss around some ideas – but the creative side is down to the individual; people can interpret the thoughts, ideas and feelings however they want. You may want to be collaborative with others, or do your own thing – and either is absolutely fine.

At each session a range of materials will be available, including clay, collage materials, and pens and paper – but please do bring your own creative resources.

We will also take some time out of each session to learn a new song/hymn for Easter.

- Sunday 25th February Wilderness/Labyrinth Mark 1:12-13/Luke 4:1-2
- Sunday 3rd March Temptation Matt 4:2-11
- Sunday 10th March Change/Transfiguration Matt 17:1-10
- Sunday 17th March Hope Mark 11:1-11

For more information contact
Revd Tim Collins:
01392 860767
tim.collins@netherexe.org

SERVICES & INFORMATION FEBRUARY 2024

The Netherexe Parishes - A Mission Community in the Diocese of Exeter

Please see our website at www.netherexe.org under "Services" section.
We also have a calendar for services & latest events are under "news".

Friday 2 February

06:00 pm	Candlemas Service [with Communion]	Thorverton	TC
----------	------------------------------------	------------	----

Sunday 4 February 2nd Sunday before Lent

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Thorverton	TC
10:00 am	Informal Service	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
10:30 am	Coffee & Chat	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Cadbury	Lay Led
11:15 am	All Age Service	Rewe	Lay Led
04:00 pm	Lego Club	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led

Tuesday 6 February

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
----------	-------------	------------	---------

Sunday 11 February Sunday before Lent

10:30 am	Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	TC
----------	----------------	------------	----

Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday

10:30 am	Ash Wednesday Service	Cadbury	TC
06:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Newton St Cyres	TC

Sunday 18 February 1st Sunday of Lent

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Brampford Speke	GC
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Cadbury	KR
05:00 pm	Holy Communion	Stoke Canon	SS
06:30 pm	Evensong	Thorverton	Lay Led

Sunday 25 February Lent 2

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	JD
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Rewe	TC

Evening Prayer: Every Tuesday 6:00 pm in Rewe Church

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

TC	Revd Tim Collins	JD	Revd Julia Dallen
LF	Laura Ford [Licensed Lay Minister]	GC	Revd Preb Graham Cotter
TL	Revd Tony Lane	KR	Revd Preb Kathy Roberts
SS	Revd Sharon Simpson		
SN	Sheila Newton [Emeritus Lay Minister]	TBC	To be confirmed.

Revd Tim Collins [Priest in charge] Tel: 01392 860767 tim.collins@netherexe.org

For more information about the Netherexe Parishes please see www.netherexe.org or contact:

Mrs Juliette Lea [Administrator]	Mr Peter Shepherd [Administrator]
Tuesday & Thursday [09:00 – 15:00]	Monday & Wednesday [09:00 – 13:00]
Tel: 07594 714590	Tel: 07551 844321
Email: administration@netherexe.org	Email: administration@netherexe.org
Correspondence: The Netherexe Parishes, Church Office, St Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke Canon, Exeter, EX5 4AS.	

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

Tim Sedgwick	Godolphin Close	2	851223	twsedgwick1@supanet.com
Sue Gee	Church Area	Glebe House	851164	asgee@btinternet.com
Tom Dowle	Court Orchard	24	851704	tomdowle@live.co.uk
Chris Lee	Langford Road	Greenlands	851280	
Mike Kersey	Half Moon	12	851603	
Penny Pearkes	Newton House	9	851517	pearkes4@gmail.com
Wayne Meeton	Norton	Glenacre Sweetham	851954	wayne@wvmstudio.com
Derrick Rhydderch-Evans	Pump Street	Old Beams	851443	derrickrevans369@btinternet.com
Anna Mace-Leska	Sand Down Lane	Compass House	851441	leska@btinternet.com
Jacqui Ward	Smallbrook	2 Broadgate Cottage	851918	Jacquiward30@yahoo.co.uk
Jill Hawksley	Sweetham	Station Cottage	851269	peterbrew@aol.com
Clive Wootton	West Town	4 Meadowlands	851428	hollywallydoda@outlook.com
Alan Hancock	Woodlands		851744	
Damien Hodge	Tytheing Close	2	851111	damienhodge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk
Geoffrey Jackson	"The Village"	Shaplands Cottage	851551	megalops@btinternet.com

*For help, further information or to submit a report please go to the website or contact the
NSC Parish Council Co-ordinator (to be appointed)*

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

Available to rent for children's parties, dances, classes, wedding receptions and meetings. It has kitchen facilities and disabled parking. Very competitive rates which have not been raised for nearly 5 years.

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Club room	£13	£19	£25	£32
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NON VILLAGERS

Main hall	£36	£54	£71	£88
Club room	£19	£28	£38	£48
Both rooms	£55	£82	£109	£136

Bookings Secretary, Peter Watts: peterwatts369@btinternet.com: 01392 851369

A WEEK IN THE PARISH HALL

If you wish to book the Hall or learn more about the facilities, please contact our Bookings Secretary, Peter Watts at peterwatts369@btinternet.com or by phone at 01392 851369

Roger Furniss Chairman, Hall Management Committee

Tuesday (weekly)	Line dancing	7.30 pm	Paula Benford	01392 210830	pbenford45@gmail.com
Tuesday (weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	12.00 - 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai-CKitchen@outlook.com
Tuesday (fortnightly)	Young Farmers Club	8.00 pm	Katie Davie	07706 760500	kmdavie@gmail.com
Wednesday (weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	12.00 - 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai-CKitchen@outlook.com
Wednesday (monthly)	History Group	7.30 pm	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337	jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com
Thursday (weekly)	Pilates (from 18th Jan)	11.00 am	Becky	07392 480974.	ivegotyourbackuk@gmail.com
Thursday (Twice per month)	Mah Jong	2.00 pm	Geoff Jackson	01392 851551	megalops@btinternet.com
Thursday (2 nd in month)	Exe Valley Bird Club	7.00 pm	Kevin Smaldon	07710 427817	kevin.smaldon@btinternet.com
Thursday (monthly)	Parish Council	7.00 pm	Jane Hole	01392 851148	parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk
Friday (some weeks)	Art class	10.30 am	Sue Rose	01363 772284	suerose9@hotmail.com
Friday (weekly)	Table tennis	7.00 pm	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337	rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com
Saturday (second in month)	Village Coffee morning sponsored by various oorganisations	10.30 am	Church Sue Browne	01392 851460	suecbrowne@gmail.com
			Others Roger Wilkins	01392 851337	rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com
Saturday (some months)	Model train group	2.00 pm	Ann Feetham	01392 215837	annfeetham@virginmedia.com

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Priest-in-Charge	Rev. Tim Collins	
Church Wardens	Sue Browne, 1 Glebelands, Sand Down Lane	01392 851460
PCC Hon Secretary	Pita Burt pitaburt@gmail.com	01392 851410
PCC Hon Treasurer	Jackie Enright	01392 851859
Electoral Roll Officer	Jen Holt, 21 Woodlands	01392 851521
Tower Captain	Mary Quicke - mary@quickes.co.uk	07729 844945
Doctors (Crediton)	Redlands Primary Care Joseph Locke Way, Crediton, EX17 3FD	01363 727111
Newton Wonder Magazine and Website	Editors:-Peter Hawksley - editor@newtonwonder.net Peter Cordingley. - cogscord@outlook.com	01392 851269 01392 851778
Parish Council	Chairman - Graeme Barnell graemebarnell@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Clerk - Jane Hole	01392 851308 01392 851148
Parish Hall	Chairman – Roger Furniss Booking Sect - Peter Watts, peterwatts369@btinternet.com	01392 851601 01392 851369
Primary School	Head of Teaching - James Akhurst School Office	01392 851267 01392 851267
Newton Nippers Pre-School	Contact the school	01392 851267
Newton Nappies Toddler Group	Kelly Berry	07890313010
Recreation Club	Chair- Carrie-Ann Finning - email: finning-newtonstcyresrecreationalclub@outlook.com Bookings - Claire Digby - email: newtonrecbookings@outlook.com	
Newton Revels	Chairman - Eric Fee:-ericwfee@hotmail.com	01392 851595
Art Group	Jenny Hallam:- jennyhallam6@gmail.com	7787383658
Neighbourhood Watch	Damien Hodge, 2 Tytheing Close damienhodge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk	01392 851111
Footpath Warden	Steve Parker, Lilly Farm.	01392 851505
Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group	Andrew Broadhead, newnewgroup@protonmail.com	07813 532544

Community Police	PCSO Nicola Payne, Police Station, CREDITON Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Dial 101
District Councillors	Sandy Chenore:- schenore@middevon.gov.uk Martin Binks:- mbinks@middevon.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Margaret Squires	01363 84337
Local M P	Mel Stride mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk	01392 823306
Football Club	Mark Smaldon	7733455177
Friends of NSC Station	Chris Southcott	01392 851569
Luncheon Club	John Salter, Hill Park	01392 851346
Mah Jong Club	Geoff Jackson _megalops@btinternet.com	01392 851551
Newton Ramblers	Rosemary Chambers	01392 851400
Tennis Club Secretary	Laura Leigh	01647 24259
Twinning	Lorraine Mitchell	01392 851596
Young Farmers	Will Ayre (Chairman) willayre@hotmail.co.uk	7964286831
Archery	Alison Couling	01392 841282
Gardening Club	Nicola Baker	01392 851985
History Group	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337
Table Tennis	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Friends of the Arboretum	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Adonai Community Kitchen	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172
Community Allotment	Gail Meldrum meldrumgail@gmail.com	07999 958799
Crediton Citizen's Advice	Adviceline (10.30 - 3.30)	03444 111444

The **NEWTON WONDER** is delivered within the Parish at a charge of only **£8.00** per year(in 2024). Subscriptions are due in January.

Please contact Gerry Radford on 01392 851504 or email
paul.radford3@btinternet.com.

If you move away it can be posted for £21.00p.a.

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The **Newton Wonder** team consists of Peter Hawksley and Peter Cordingley (editors). Mark Phillips, Sue Phillips, Martin Taylor and Gerry Radford.

Articles for Publication: Please email to Peter Hawksley, editor@newtonwonder.net. Tel: 01392 851269

Notices of Local Events: Please email to Peter Hawksley as above.

Local voluntary Village events are included free of charge.

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All items for publication must arrive by the 15th of the month before publication. Please send by email wherever possible otherwise they should be sent to the Editor at Station Cottage, Newton St Cyres EX5 5AS

We aim to distribute the **Newton Wonder** at the beginning of the month but this cannot be guaranteed. It is recommended, therefore, that events taking place early in the month be advertised the previous month.

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The editorial team of the **Newton Wonder** does not necessarily agree with the views of contributors contained in their published articles. This is a **community magazine** and it is our policy to print reports, articles and submissions that might be of interest to the community - provided that we have sufficient space to do so and they are not libellous in content.

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